

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Announcement of an extension of the public comment period for the draft TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) for Mill Creek and Powhatan Creek, James City County

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To extend the public comment period for the draft TMDLs for Mill Creek and Powhatan Creek located in James City County.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has been working to identify sources of pollution in Mill Creek and Powhatan Creek.

Mill Creek was identified in Virginia's 2002 Water Quality Assessment 305(b) Report. Sufficient exceedances of Virginia's water quality standards for Fecal Coliform and enterococci bacteria assessed segment VAT-G10E-03 as not supporting the Recreation Use.

Powhatan Creek has two segments that have been identified as impaired and do not support the Recreation Use. Segment VAT-G10E-01 was listed in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report because of violations of the fecal coliform and enterococci water quality standard. In the 2002 Water Quality Assessment 305(b) Report, segment VAT-G10R-02 was documented as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standard for fecal coliform bacteria.

During the study, the sources of bacteria have been identified and total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, developed for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, contamination levels must be reduced to the TMDL amount

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: The development of a TMDL includes public meetings and a public comment period once the study report is drafted. After public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, May 12, 2008 to May 28, 2008. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

TO REVIEW DRAFT TMDL REPORT: The draft TMDL report on the impaired waters is available from the contact below or on the DEQ web site at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl>.

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